Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-16 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1-11, 15 and 16 are allowed, claims 12-14 are rejected as being anticipated by U.S. patent no. 6,630,253 to Freeny. This ground for rejection is overcome by the amendment to claim 12. In particular, Freeny does not disclose or suggest, "generating a control request signal, responsive to the received command, and sending the control request to the computer via the control I/O port; [and] responsive to the control request signal, receiving a select signal from the computer via the control I/O port."

In the Office Action, it is asserted that the signal separator interface 54 in Freeny (see Fig. 2) accomplishes this step. The signal separator interface 54 serves to handle signals originating locally and destined remotely. The interface 54 does not *generate and transmit* a control request signal to a remote computer in response to a command received locally. Instead, it simply *transmits* signals received locally to the remote destination. See column 8, lines 12-30. Freeny discloses that the signal separator 54 transmits three types of signals: 1) signals that control the television set, 2) signals that control the local computer and 3) signals that control the remote computer. None of these signals is a control request signal.

Additionally, remote system controller 26 generates no control request signal in response to a command (see fig. 3). It merely transmits the signals received to one of the remote computers.

Furthermore, Freeney does not disclose or suggest, "responsive to the control request signal, receiving a select signal from the computer via the control I/O port." The Office Action asserts that the signal separator interface 54 Freeny accomplishes this step. While the signal separator interface 54 receives signals from the remote location, there is no disclosure in Freeny that these signals are select signals. Instead, they are disclosed as being video and data signals. See column 8, lines 31-57. The select signal defined by claim 12 serves to grant control of the remote computer to one of the remote keyboard or the local remote control device. The remote system controller 26 in Freeny generates no such select signal. The signal it transmits from the remote computer contains no selection information about what keyboard or remote control device will control the remote computer. The signal, instead, is a data or

video signal with information indicating destination. The signal passes on to the signal

separator interface 54. Thus, there is no comparable select signal in Freeny.

It is well settled that for a reference to be an anticipatory reference under 35 U.S.C. §

102(b) it must include every limitation of the claim.

> To be anticipating, a prior art reference must disclose "each and every limitation
> of the claimed invention[,] ... must be enabling[,] and [must] describe ... the
> claimed invention sufficiently to have placed it in possession of a person of
> ordinary skill in the field of the invention."[1]

Because Freeny does not disclose or suggest all of the cited limitations of claim 12, claim 12 is

not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Freeny.

Claims 13 and 14 were also rejected for being described by Freeny. In the Office Action,

it is asserted that signals transmitted by the remote portion of the system in Freeny may have a

header or other identifier to allow the signal separator interface 54 to distinguish signals from

the remote system and signals from the television station block 57 in order to send them to

different destinations. These signals, however, are not priority signals. They are data or video

signals. The header information is a destination identifier, not a priority identifier. See column

6, lines 22-37. In the subject patent application, priority is used to determine whether control

signals from different input devices are processed by the remote computer, which is a single

destination. Thus, in the present invention, there is no need for an address field in the header

and in Freeney, because there are multiple remote computers, there is no need for priority.

Indeed, the word "priority" is not even used in the Freeney patent.

Accordingly, claims 13 and 14 are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in

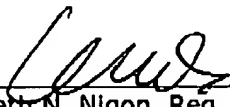view of Freeny for reasons independent of claim 12.

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[1] *Helifix Ltd. V. Blok-lok Ltd.* 54 USPQ2d 1299, 1303 (Fed. Cir. 2000), quoting *In re Paulsen* 31 USPQ2d 1671, 1673 (Fed. Cir. 1994).

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     In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants request that the Examiner

reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 12, 13 and 14.

                                 Respectfully submitted,

                                 Kenneth N. Nigon, Reg. No. 31,549
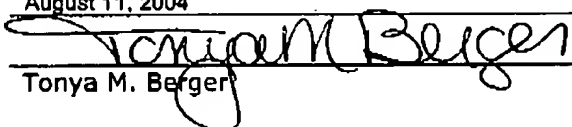   Attorney(s) for Applicant(s)

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August 11, 2004

Tonya M. Berger